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25 May 1964

Copy No. C 82 -11



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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* British Guiana: [Tension remains high in the colony as British troops assist the police in attempting to prevent further large-scale outbreaks of racial violence.]

[An additional company of troops from London is arriving to supplement the 600 already in position, and additional forces are alerted for airlift. Hard pressed elsewhere, London probably hopes Governor Luyt's announced request for a total of 1,000 reinforcements will have a sufficiently calming effect to preclude the need for their dispatch.]

[The governor had insisted that the state of emergency proclaimed on 22 May was necessary because violence had spread from the coastal area west of Georgetown to the east coast Demerara region and on Friday to the capital itself. These disturbances-- which have caused the death of over 20 persons in recent weeks--resulted both from growing racial tension between East Indians and Negroes and deliberate provocations by the armed, Cuban-trained terrorists in the Progressive Youth Organization directed by extremists in Jagan's party.]

[Premier Jagan made only a halfhearted appeal for calm on 23 May. His regime may not be fully cooperating with the governor's efforts to maintain security in hopes of causing enough disorder to postpone the elections scheduled for later this year, which it fears it will lose.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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South Vietnam: [Religious tension continues with signs of a growing Catholic reaction to Buddhist militancy.]

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[Deputy Premier Hoan, a Catholic, said on 19 May that he had spent most of the previous evening persuading an unidentified Catholic organization not to stage demonstrations in connection with a major Buddhist holiday on 26 May. As a precaution against religious trouble on this date, the government on the 23rd reportedly placed several military units on alert.]

[Although the Khanh government has tried to steer a cautious course on issues which might arouse religious feeling, many Catholics apparently fear that either the government or the Buddhists will yet retaliate against them for alleged practices of the former Diem regime.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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NOTE

Libya: Rumors that Premier Muntassir will resign shortly are increasing. While the resignation, should it occur, would probably result from the King's feeling that the premier has been too willing to bow to public pressure on the issue of Western bases, any replacement for Muntassir is certain to be subject to similar strong pressures. Foreign Minister Mazziq, a strong contender for the post, was extremely tough in his opening round of the US-Libyan negotiations on the future of Wheelus Air Base.

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